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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/627,623	07/28/2003	Reuven Unger	P23593	4331

7055 7590 08/23/2005

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EXAMINER	
GARCIA, ERNESTO	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3679	

DATE MAILED: 08/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/627,623	Applicant(s) UNGER ET AL.	
	Examiner Ernesto Garcia	Art Unit 3679	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 June 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 25 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 4,8 and 13 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07/28/2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Election of Species

Claims 4, 8, and 13, are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on December 3, 2004.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the spring mount radially inwardly projects at a region between the first inner diameter and the second inner diameter of the spring support (claim 11) must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered. Applicants have shown the spring mount 440 projecting at the second inner diameter assuming the inner diameter is the unthreaded portion below the spring mount (Fig. 3). Further, applicants

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have received this drawing objection and overcame this objection by amending claims 2 and 6; however claim 11 still contains the limitation "radially inwardly projects" in line 4.

Figures 1, 2A, and 2B should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g).

The drawings are objected to because the cross hatching of the spring 160 is not shown in the cross sectional views, Figs. 3, 4, 5B, 6 and 10.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended". If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the examiner does not accept the changes, the

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applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

Claim 25 is objected to because "projection" in line 6 should be --spring support--. Appropriate correction is required. For purposes of examining the instant invention, the examiner has assumed these corrections have been made.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-3 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Seguin, 2,020,522 (see marked-up attachment).

Regarding claim 1, Seguin discloses, in Figure 6, a securing device comprising a spring **9**, a generally annular spring support **3'** and a generally annular coupling ring **2**. The spring support **3'** includes a spring mount **12** projecting in an inner side **A3** of the spring support **3'**.

Regarding claim 2, the spring support **3'** has a first inner diameter **A5** and second inner diameter **A6**. The spring mount **12** radially inwardly projects at a region **A7** between the first inner diameter **A5** and the second inner diameter **A6**.

Regarding claim 3, a first thread is formed on an inner periphery of the spring mount **12**. A second thread is formed on an outer periphery of the coupling ring **2**.

Regarding claim 25, Seguin discloses, in Figure 6, a method comprising:
insert a spring **9** into a generally annular spring support **3'** such that a spring mount **12** of the spring support **3'** supports the spring **9**; and
connect a generally annular coupling ring **2** to the spring support **3'** such that the spring **9** is secured and sandwiched between the coupling ring and the projection (*vis.*, the spring support **3'**).

Claims 10 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Woodruff et al., 6,309,524 (see marked-up attachment).

Regarding claim 10, Woodruff et al. disclose, in Figure 25, a securing device comprising a spring **610d**, a generally annular spring support **625d**, a generally annular coupling ring **605d**, and threaded holes **A11** in the coupling ring **605d**. The spring support **625d** includes a spring mount **725d** projecting in an inner side **765d** of the spring support **625d** and configured to support the spring **610d**.

Regarding claim 14, the threaded holes **A11** are at an interval of approximately 90 degrees or 180 degrees on the coupling ring **605d**.

Claims 10-12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brunais et al., 4,333,434 (see marked-up attachment).

Regarding claim 10, Brunais et al. disclose, in Figure 2, a securing device comprising a spring **126**, a generally annular spring support **62**, a generally annular coupling ring **60**, and threaded holes **106** in the coupling ring **60**. The spring support **62** includes a spring mount **A2** projecting in an inner side **A3** of the spring support **62** and configured to support the spring **126**.

Regarding claim 11, the spring support **62** has a first inner diameter **A5** and second inner diameter **A6**. The spring mount **A2** radially inwardly projects at a region between the first inner diameter **A5** and the second inner diameter **A6**.

Regarding claim 12, a first thread **100** is formed on an inner periphery of the spring mount **A2**. A second thread **98** is formed on an outer periphery of the coupling ring **60**.

Regarding claim 14, the threaded holes **106** are at an interval of approximately 90 degrees or 180 degrees on the coupling ring **60**.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5-7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seguin, 2,020,522, in view of Sergeant, 2,110,427.

Regarding claim 5, Seguin discloses, in Figure 6, a securing device comprising a spring **9**, a generally annular spring support **3'**, a generally annular coupling ring **2**. The spring support **3'** includes a spring mount **12** projecting in an inner side **A3** of the spring support **3'**. However, Seguin fails to disclose fixation holes penetratingly formed through the coupling ring **2**. Sergeant teaches, in Figures 1 and 3, fixation holes **2c** penetratingly formed through a coupling ring **2** to allow removal and fixation of the coupling ring to an annular spring support. Therefore, as taught by Seguin, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace the fixation elements 5 of Seguin with the fixation holes penetratingly formed through the coupling ring to allow removal and fixation of the coupling ring to the annular spring support.

Regarding claim 6, the spring support **3'** has a first inner diameter **A5** and second inner diameter **A6**. The spring mount **12** radially inwardly projects at a region **A7** between the first inner diameter **A5** and the second inner diameter **A6**.

Regarding claim 7, a first thread is formed on an inner periphery of the spring mount **12**. A second thread is formed on an outer periphery of the coupling ring **2**.

Regarding claim 9, Seguin, as modified above, teaches the fixation holes **2c** are at an interval of approximately 90 degrees or 180 degrees on the coupling ring **2**.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's' arguments with respect to claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-12, and 14 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicants' arguments filed 6/15/05, in respect to claim 25, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants have argued that the spring 9 as identified by the examiner is not a spring, but rather a gasket and further argued that the spring 11 is not sandwiched between the coupling ring and the projection. Applicant is reminded that Figure 6 does not have a spring 11 but rather spring 9. Further, the spring as identified as "9" has the

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qualities of a spring since the material comprising the spring 9 is resilient and flat.

These two characteristics make a spring since it is well established that a resilient member, for example, an O-ring, which is also known to be a gasket, acts as spring due to resiliency. Therefore, by inherency, a gasket comprises a spring. Further, the examiner has taken its broadest reasonable interpretation of the term "spring", which includes resilient members, any coil spring, leaf spring, Bellville washers, etc.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. In particular, the new limitation "a spring" in claims 1, 5, and 10, line 2, necessitated the new grounds. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

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the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ernesto Garcia whose telephone number is 571-272-7083. The examiner can normally be reached from 9:30-5:30. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached at 571-272-7087.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



E.G.

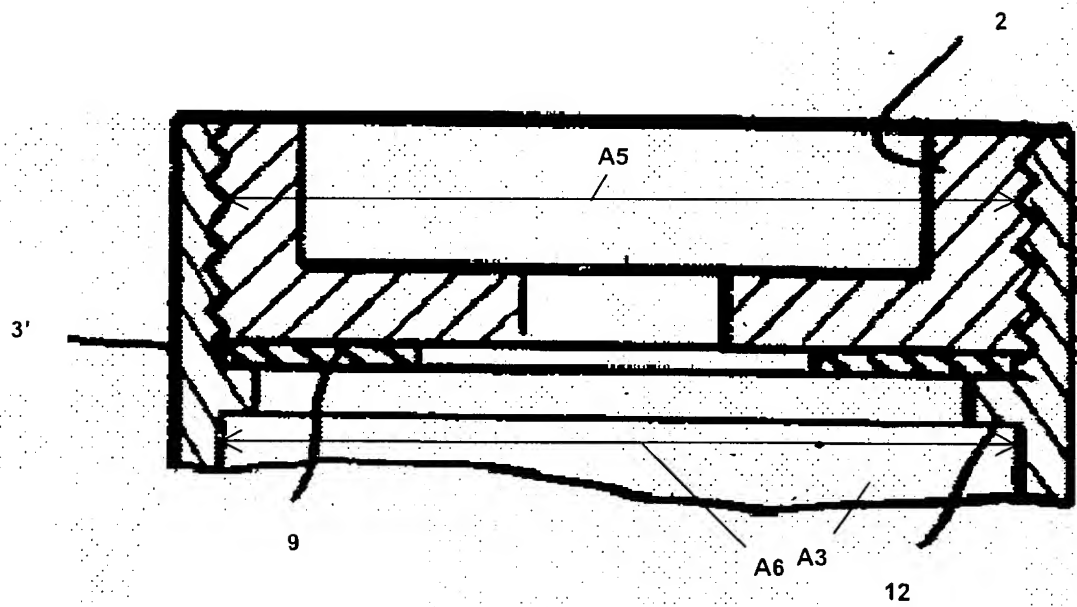
August 17, 2005

Attachments: one marked-up page of Seguin, 2,020,522
one marked-up page of Woodruff et al., 6,309,52
one marked-up page of Brunais et al., 4,333,434

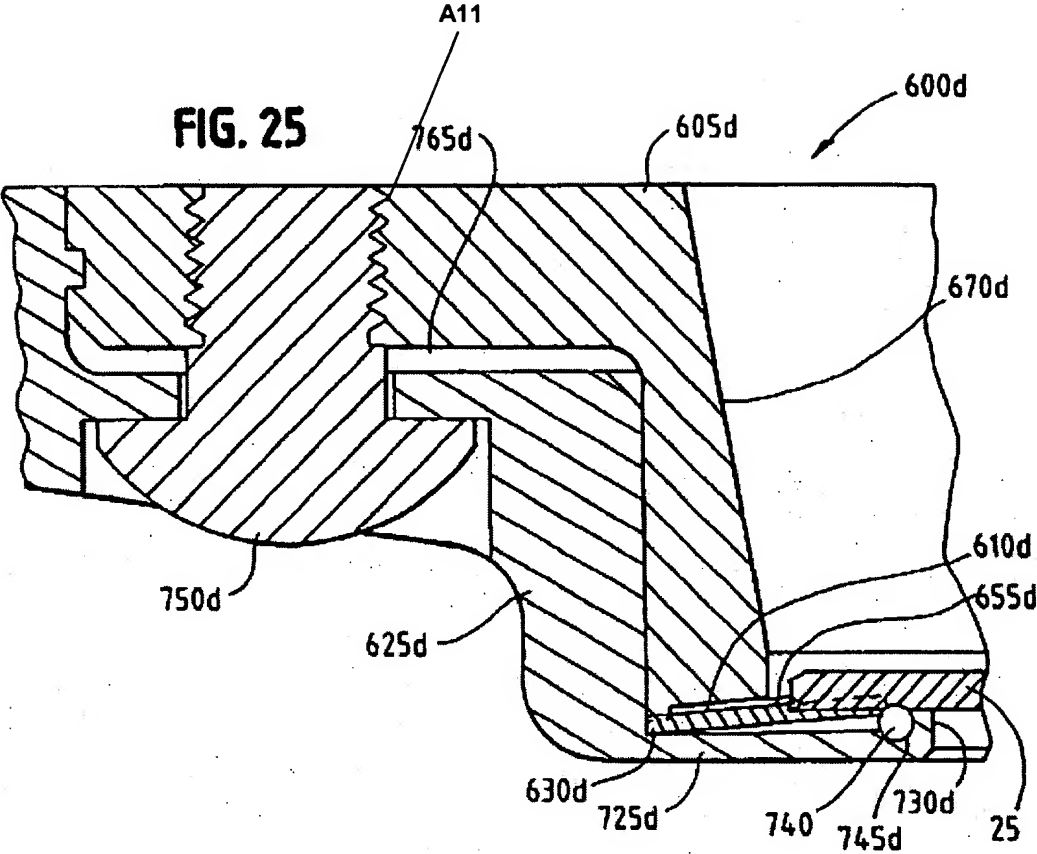


DANIEL P. STODOLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

Seguin, 2,020,522



Woodruff et al., 6,309,524



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Brunais et al., 4,333,434

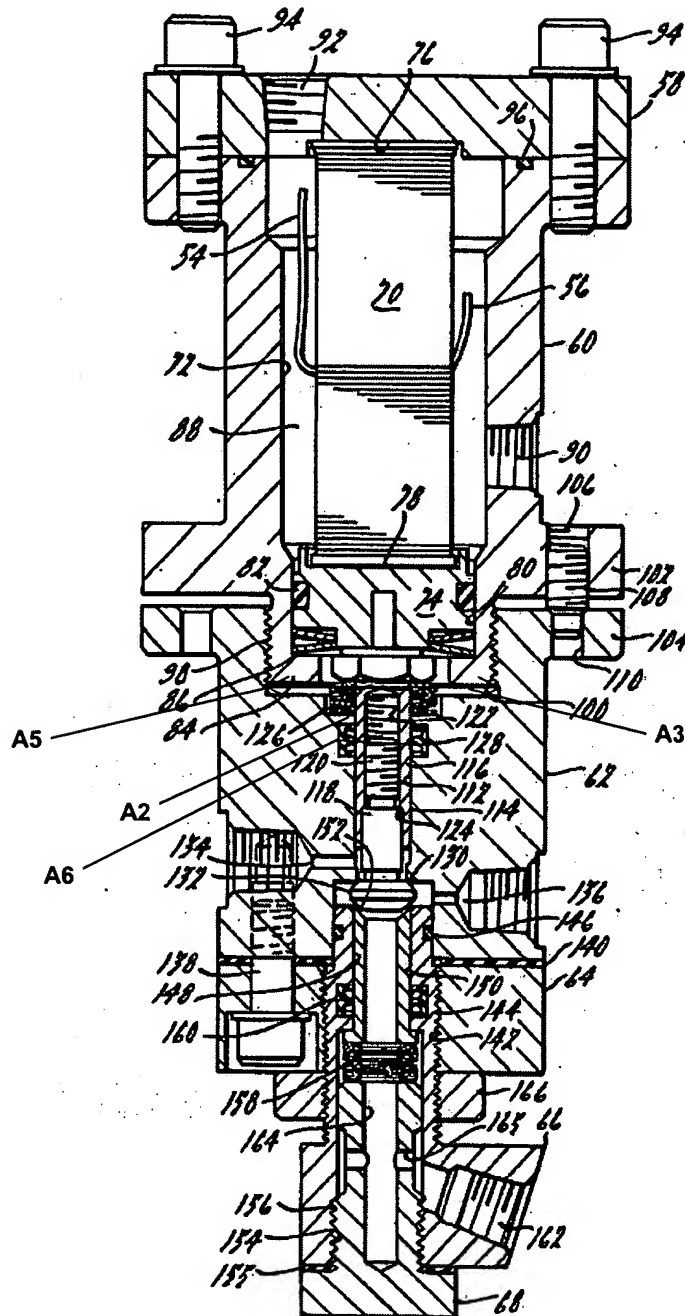


FIG. 2.